

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in this application, as amended. By the present amendment, claims 1, 5 and 10 have been amended, and new claim 14 has been added. No new matter has been introduced into the claims by these amendments.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Action, it was indicated that claims 5 and 10 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 5 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1. A clarification has been made so that it is clear that the inner tube (3) mounted in the receiving block (11) is detachably attached in a tube (10) arranged in a fixed manner on a lower region of the land space (9), with the inner tube and any add on parts attached to the inner tube being removable from the tube (10). This is consistent with the specification and drawings and ensures that the claim language clearly states that it is the inner tube and receiving block that are detachably attached to the tube (10). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 10 are now in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of U.S. 4,478,368 to Yie. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a nozzle for spraying liquid substances, dispersions, emulsions or suspensions for feed and chemical industries for use in fluidized-bed granulating systems. The nozzle includes a cylindrical nozzle body and a nozzle

mouth piece, with the nozzle body including a centrally arranged inner tube and an outer tube spaced apart from the inner tube. The inner tube is connected to a supply for a substance to be sprayed and the outer tube is connected to a supply for an atomizing gas or to a gas carrier stream and forms a lance base in a bottom region. The inner tube is mounted in a receiving block, which is detachably attached in a tube (10) arranged in a fixed manner on a lower region of the lance base and the inner tube and any add-on parts attached to the inner tube are easily disassemblable from and re-assembleable with the tube for required cleaning of the nozzle. An attachment device, which connects the nozzle detachably to a processing housing of the fluidized-bed granulating system, is arranged in a lower region of the outer tube. This arrangement allows the inner tube and nozzle to be easily detached and removed with only a few hand movements for cleaning of the nozzle which is required during operation.

In contrast to the present invention, Yie is directed to a nozzle for introducing particulates into a liquid stream. The inner tube (20) defining the nozzle body is assembled by being threaded into a plurality of parts that are nested within one another as shown clearly in Figure 2. Disassembly of this nozzle would therefore only be done with certain difficulty, which is avoided by the present invention, and there is no requirement that Yie is easily dis-assemblable for cleaning the nozzle part. To the extent that the Yie assembly is not easily dis-assemblable from and re-assembleable with the tube for required cleaning distinguishes the present nozzle assembly from that of Yie. Additionally, with respect to new claim 14, it has been made clear that the assembly further includes a clamp which detachably holds the receiving block to the tube so that the inner tube is axially moveable to and from an installed position when the clamp is released. With respect to claims 12 and 13, the clamp attachment between the outer tube and the lance base as well as the clamp attachment between the receiving block and the tube are also lacking in Yie.

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It is clear that the invention of Yie is not at all concerned with providing a nozzle assembly that allows the nozzle to be easily disassembled using only a few hand movements such that the individual parts can then be cleaned prior to the nozzle being easily reassembled. Further, as the arrangement of Yie does not appear to require any disassembly or cleaning, it is believed that there would be no motivation or suggestion for using the arrangement of Yie for a nozzle assembly as in the present invention where there is a requirement for removing and cleaning the parts of the nozzle.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-13 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-14, is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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